## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A program recording apparatus has

a program information input means for inputting program information concerning programs;

a program recording setting means for the setting of the recording of programs;

a recording means for writing in, and erasing, data containing the contents of the programs to and from a recording medium; and

a management means for storing program information which is inputted from the program information input means and for recording the programs by the recording means according to the setting for recording or independent of the setting for recording,

wherein the program recording apparatus is characterized in that, at the point in time when the program recording setting means sets the recording of a program, the management means predicts a shortage of vacant space in the recording medium at the point in time when the recording means carries out the writing in of the data containing the contents of the program, of which the recording is set, to the recording medium by referring to program management information which includes, at least, the program information, the recording status of the recording medium and recording setting status of the programs and in the case that the vacant space is in shortage, decides the programs to be erased at the point in time when the writing in is carried out among

the programs which have already been recorded or which have already been set for recording according to a predetermined criteria which includes a criterion concerning the erasure possibility at the point in time when the writing in of the program is carried out.